GANGED FIRE EXTINGUISHER SYSTEM

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A non-electrically actuated ganged fire extinguisher system for use in an enclosure requiring the fire extinguisher capacity of at least two pre-engineered fire extinguishers, the system comprising:

at least two pre-engineered fire extinguishers positioned at spaced locations in the enclosure, each fire extinguisher comprising a tank filled with pressurized fire extinguishing agent and an outlet for discharging the agent;

an actuation valve mounted on the outlet of each fire extinguisher, the actuation valve having a movable valve member that opens the valve when in an actuated state and closes the valve when in a deactuated state;

a fluid operated valve actuator for each valve, the valve actuator being drivingly connected to the valve and being operated by fluid pressure, the valve actuator retaining the valve in a closed state when the actuator is pressurized and opening the valve when the actuator is depressurized;

a vent line connecting the valve actuators and providing fluid communication therebetween, such that the actuators are maintained at the same pressure state; and

at least one non-electrical temperature sensor mounted in fluid communication with the vent line, the temperature sensor being responsive to temperature so as to become actuated and open an outlet to the vent line and release the pressure therein when the temperature in the vicinity of the sensor reaches a predetermined value indicative of a fire hazard, the release of pressure in the

vent line in turn causing substantially simultaneous actuation of all fire extinguishers connected to the vent line.

2. A non-electrically actuated, ganged fire extinguisher system comprising a plurality of pre-engineered fire extinguishers operably interconnected by a pressurizable vent line, one or more non-electrical thermal sensors being connected in fluid communication with the vent line, the vent line being pressurized when in a deactuated state and outlet valves in the fire extinguisher being maintained in a closed condition when the vent line is pressurized, the sensors releasing the pressure in the vent line when the sensors are actuated by an excessive temperature condition, the release of pressure in the vent line causing the outlet valves to become actuated, releasing pressurized fire extinguishing agent.